

Evening Telegraph

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1866.

Southern Brigandage and Black-mail—A Threatened Evil to the Cotton States.

The Southern papers are exceedingly exercised just now over the threatening condition of Southern society. It would seem that the castigation of that ill-fated country has not yet been concluded. The war, although it has desolated its fields, and made its gardens billowed with graves, has not yet compelled it to drain the cup of bitter repentance to the dregs. With the exhaustion of peace has come a new affliction, which threatens to destroy its rising hopes even more than did the desperate charges of the military. We refer to that brigandage which, if we can trust our Southern exchanges, is about to overrun the cotton States. In a recent article on this additional punishment, the Richmond Times says, editorially:—

"Brigandage to become established in this country? If so, then there never was a farrier field opened for its successful enterprises than is presented by the topography of our country and its condition since the conclusion of the war. Nor will there be men wanting to avail themselves of the facilities afforded by the state of the country to earn an easy livelihood by criminal associations. Such men have already been found, and the materials out of which brigands are made are abundant, both North and South.

"The war, therefore, while it did not create brigandage, has given it a new impetus, and it has taught it that organization and strategy so useful for its successful enterprise. And by the general unbinding of our laws, the destruction of social and political systems, and the demoralization of the people, brigandage has presented for its occupation and employment a most inviting field. In the loose and disintegrated condition of our society, in the poverty and sufferings of the people, in the fires of sectional hate, unquenched by any course of conciliatory kindness on the part of the North; in the thousands of idle and desperate soldiers disbanded by the war; in the vastness of our country, the number and magnitude of our rivers and mountain ranges, we see a field opened for the growth of brigandage in its most alarming and formidable proportions."

Nor does it seem to us that the anticipation of our contemporaries is at all misplaced. The evil that they dread is not at all unlikely to ensue. All great wars have been followed by a prevalence of the system of thieving and murder, whether its perpetrators were termed rovers, brigands, banditti, or patriots. The War of the Roses in Great Britain, was followed by predatory bands of both parties, who following in the wake of the contending armies, were either for York or Lancaster, as policy suggested. The whole of the kingdom of Grenada was, for half a century after its subjugation by Spain, the scene of blood and carnage; while, up to the present day, a journey of fifty miles from Rome will bring the traveller into the camp of banditti. The nature of that department of literature which has treated of these lawless bands has been of a character to promote the growth of brigandage. The exploits of ROBIN HOOD, DICK TURPIN, and JACK SHEPHERD have been so brilliantly celebrated in prose and verse by English writers, that it would not be strange if these worthies had many disciples and imitators wherever the country and the feelings of the people should prove favorable. If brigandage existed in densely populated England; if it even thrives and prospers now in thickly settled Italy; if it has been successfully followed in the oldest and most refined portions of Mexico, there is but too much reason to apprehend its appearance in the late Rebel States.

There is, therefore, a strong possibility, if not a probability, that the South will be shortly infested, even more than she at present is, by a lawless band of depredators; and that America will yet be able to rival the Old World in the possession of DE LA MARCK'S and ROBIN HOODS. In view of such a possibility, the Southern papers suggest a peculiar remedy. One of them says that "it is in vain to rely upon the forces of the Federal Government for a suppression of such a system, when once established, because the army is being too rapidly reduced to make its presence and influence appreciable over a country of such vast and illimitable boundaries. Where martial law exists, the evils of brigandage will be aggravated by the paralysis of civil and municipal law, inseparable from any system of military government. If brigandage, for centuries, has existed within twenty miles of Naples and fifty miles of Rome, when Italian towns and districts have been crowded with French and native troops, all striving to destroy it, can Federal troops prevent it here? Whether the evils which we now see—brigandage and its consequences—are to increase or diminish, will depend upon the establishment of civil law and order in the Southern States. When we are left to manage our own affairs, they will be managed well. With the best efforts and intentions, Federal and military government are insufficient representatives of State and local authorities. No one can manage a house so well as those who own and reside in it."

We cannot agree with our contemporary in regard to the remedy. If the forces of the United States authorities cannot, in addition to the local police, restrain evil-doers, we doubt if the police could do it were the military to be withdrawn. Let the reins of martial law be drawn closer; let the restriction be made more rigorous; let death be the sentence to all guerillas, and the South will be freed. No effort of civil power can overcome

violence where the military fail. Should the troops be recalled, as the South desires, there would be an irrepressible system of plunder established, and the Unionists attacked by Rebels under the disguise of banditti. Let us protect all, and punish with rigor the guilty. For violence can only overcome violence, and lawless power be better subdued by executions than by moral suasion.

How Bills Pass the Legislature of Our State.

THE constant stream of abuse which has been for years poured on the morals, or rather the lack of morality, of the State Legislature has not been without cause. Corruption and bribery have been the ruling geni of the body, and the fairies of the ring resorted to meaner tricks than ever were practised by the "bad spirits" of Arabian fable. That matters have not much improved was shown by the WITTE-NORRHOP case, in which \$25,000 was deemed necessary in order to pave with greenbacks the way for the passage of a bill in itself both just and necessary. But to particularize some of the facilities which aid and abet the system of lobby blackmailing, we will cite the steps necessary in order to secure the passage of any bill through both branches of the body.

After securing a number of lobby agents men who are deemed indispensable, and whose profession is to buttonhole members, and either bribe or bore the victim into assenting to a bill, the ordinance is presented in manuscript, and in manuscript referred to a standing committee. What little manipulation it undergoes in the session of this clique of omnipotent representatives we do not know. The curtain is closed, and all outsiders kept beyond the circle of the interpenetration. If the committee reports favorably, then the bill is read from the manuscript, and either passed or defeated without any opportunity being given to examine its provisions calmly. Such is the routine, except in certain cases, where the bill is printed as the Senate or House file.

We utter our warmest protest against such an arrangement. Let every bill be printed by its friends, and given not only into the hands of the members, but also into the possession of such journals as have readers who are interested in its fate. Let it be printed when first moved, and before its reference, so that time may be allowed for its provisions to become public. Let the Star Chamber system of passing ordinances and making laws be abolished. What possible idea is conveyed to readers when the legislative proceedings announce the passage of a bill to "amend the supplement to the Act incorporating the City of Philadelphia?" Under this dubious head may be voted away some of the most valued prerogatives of our city. No time is allowed for the discussion and examination of a measure, and a demand for a copy of a bill is replied to by the assurance that if a copy be procured, it must be engraved at the receiver's expense. If any man is to be sufficiently benefited by a law, then it is his duty to see that that law be printed at his own expense. We hope hereafter that every bill will be published, and matters be so arranged at Harrisburg as to enable editors to give to their readers a full account of all that is doing or done at the State Capital.

Ministerial Stipends. HENRY WARD BEECHER, D. D., has his sorrows like lesser mortals. He is the elected shepherd of a flock the most of whom have money in their purses. They indulge in the very highest style of aristocratic devotion. The seats are cushioned with swans' down, and the hymn-books are bound in most unapproachable velvet. The high places in the synagogue are occupied by millionaires and money kings. The cantile modestly locate upon uncomfortable benches in the aisle, or give an attend car to a dispensed gospel from the remote back districts of the vestibule. Mr. BEECHER is a good preacher, and for many years past has been one of the most popular pulpit orators of this country. We are gratified to know that his intellectual gifts have not been without pecuniary appreciation. We believe that he at present enjoys the comfortable salary of \$8000 per annum, a sum which we do not object to, for "the laborer is worthy of his hire," and in every condition of life the best hands bring the highest wages. But Mr. BEECHER has discovered that this miserable pittance is insufficient to his wants, and that if sinners will have the gospel preached to them, they must be prepared to pay for the luxury. Mr. BEECHER announced to his congregation on last Sabbath morning that he stood in need of an assistant, so that his multitudinous lecturing engagements at \$200 per night shall not be seriously interfered with. The arrangement will then be that some youthful but aspiring ecclesiastic will be hired at a per diem to pray with the dying and console the sorrow-stricken. He will, to some extent, resemble the country curate of the time of CHARLES II, as described by MACAULAY, who oscillated from the table of the nobleman where he said grace over food from which he was required to abstain and groom horses which he was never requested to bestride. The associate pastor of Plymouth Church will be required to do the weekly drudgery; assist the sexton in his responsible duties during the weekday and evening services; operate the organ bellows when the important functionary that attends to that duty is absent from sickness or any unavoidable cause; and carry round the parish the bills due for pew rent and contingent expenses. The principal will thus be enabled to imitate Satan, as described by Jon, and "go to and fro, and up and down"—doubtless to the instruction and amusement, but certainly to his own personal emolument.

It would be hypocritical to object to the intellectual feasts that are almost nightly presented to the public in the lecture-room; and among those who stand high in the profession, HENRY WARD BEECHER is one. He has doubtless done much good upon the platform, as he has in the pulpit; but his chosen profession is the preaching of the gospel, and not lecturing. PAUL was, perhaps, as good an example of a true apostle as any mentioned in sacred history, but he seldom lectured; and never asked for an associate. We are not informed as to what his annual salary was; it may be that he could not afford the luxury as easily as our modern priests can, but we are quite sure that he performed his ministerial duties about as satisfactorily as the majority of his modern professional brethren.

However, Plymouth Church is rich, and no doubt is able to stand the expense of a sub-pastor. Quite a number of God-fearing and honest Christian men are able to discharge all the duties of a pastor on a salary considerably under \$1000 per annum, and yet find time to till the soil, look after the interests of their congregation, kneel at the bedside of disease or death, and on that small stipend imitate the good old pastor whom GOLDSMITH has immortalized—"allure to brighter worlds and lead the way."

CLEANING STREETS.—The New York Tribune says:—

"We extract with amusement the following from a London journal:— 'The firms which undertake to clean the city, left to clean during the snowstorm, have consequently been faced £2 a street, or £200 in all.'

"Singular condition of municipal felicity! We have heard much of the defects in the London vestry and parish systems, and twenty other matters, but a city that hires its contractors for not cleaning the streets is above all criticism. The wildest imagination cannot conceive such a thing being attempted in New York. To clean the streets when there is snow is not deemed within the power of humanity. Instead of hiring our contractors for failure in such circumstances, we expressly exempt them from obligation; and we observe that Messrs. GROWS, DAVIS, and KNAPP, instead of keeping their carts at work, while the city shows how many people throw their garbage into the streets."

We cordially echo the astonishment expressed by the Tribune. What a celestial, Utopian place London must be! If in New York they don't clean the streets from snow, and are not fined, and if in London they are subjected to a penalty, how much worse are we, when it is considered a piece of hardly excusable impertinence to state that the garbage and filth in our streets are not removed! If in a century from now our city be so far advanced in the course of civilization as to be able to induce the contractors to even approximately do their duty, to even execute their contract in a Pickwickian sense, we will consider we have made a long stride in the course of municipal reform.

THE SUNDAY QUESTION.

The Ten Commandments.

To the Editor of the Evening Telegraph:— If an engineer were to construct a locomotive of a million horse power, fit to up and start it in the midst of our city, without governor or guide, to run at random through streets and through houses, carrying desolation and death in its fearful course, would the public account him a wise and good citizen? Or would they hold him for a madman or a fiend; and call him to account for his conduct? If some Van Amburgh should turn out, an untamed elephant or a ferocious lion upon the community, without any governing power to control him, would he be esteemed a wise and a good man? And do you believe that God built such a machine and sent it into the world? Did He let loose upon His world such an elephant, or such a lion, and yet make no provision for its government, rule, and direction? Why, my reader, the wise Creator enacted laws for the government of every creature of His hand. Dead matter has its laws; and living animals are governed by instincts created in them, and with them. And can you believe that man, the crowning work of creation, and the mightiest for good or evil of all the inhabitants of earth, was thrown into the world without law or governing principle in him? Or do you not rather believe that law—moral law—was created in him and with him; that he was created in the image of God, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness; that this image of God involved the moral sense or conscience; in short, that man was made a moral agent and held accountable for his conduct? If so, he must have had a law given to him as the rule of his action. You cannot form a conception of a moral agent which does not involve the idea of a moral law—that is, a rule prescribing duty. Hence the generally received doctrine concerning the moral law of man's creation, that God made man upright and gave him a rule of action. To this Paul refers in Romans, ii 15:—"Which show the work of the law, written in their heart, their conscience also bearing witness." To deny a primitive revelation to man of an elementary law for a rule of action, is to deny his moral agency, and to place him below the brutes and birds, whose instincts are to them effective laws. Such is not the characteristic of him who is lord of all this lower creation.

Now, this primitive revelation, so absolutely necessary to man's moral agency, was common to the race; and that it has been often disregarded by individuals is no more proof of its non-existence in the earlier ages, than the running of printing-presses and cars on Sunday is proof that Pennsylvania has never had a law against such things. The first revelation of this primitive law, as we have seen in the moral agent which does not involve the idea of a moral law—that is, a rule prescribing duty. Hence the generally received doctrine concerning the moral law of man's creation, that God made man upright and gave him a rule of action. To this Paul refers in Romans, ii 15:—"Which show the work of the law, written in their heart, their conscience also bearing witness." To deny a primitive revelation to man of an elementary law for a rule of action, is to deny his moral agency, and to place him below the brutes and birds, whose instincts are to them effective laws. Such is not the characteristic of him who is lord of all this lower creation.

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representatives, the Elders answered together, and said, "All that the Lord hath spoken we will do." Verses 7, 8. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the Lord. This negotiation occupied two days, and Moses was directed to go down and make all proper arrangements for the awful solemnities of the third day. Bonds are to be marked along the base of the Mount, over which no man or beast must pass. Vs 12, 13. The morning of the third day from their arrival was ushered in by the loud discharges of heaven's artillery: "Thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the Mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud, so that all the people that were in the camp trembled." And, remember, they numbered three millions. "And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the nether part of the Mount, and Mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire; and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole Mount quaked greatly. And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice. And the Lord came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the Mount, and the Lord called Moses up to the top of the Mount, and Moses went up." Vs 16-26. Such are the scenes preparatory to the giving of the law of the Ten Commandments; the central one of which wicked man desires to strike out, and thus to draw the thunders of omnipotence in the mad bellows of Mammon for money! money! money! The grandest and most sublime scene our earth ever witnessed, or ever will witness, until that very same Lord shall descend with a shout with the voice of the archangel and the trump of God, and wake up the teeming myriads of earth's longest and most profound sleepers, is to be seen in the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall come again to the top of Pennsylvania want to make money by Sunday labor!

THE OIL CONFLAGRATION.

Disastrous Fire on Bennehoff Run—Fourteen Wells on Fire.

From the Reno Times, February 2.

At 9 o'clock last night we received the following despatch:— PETROLEUM CENTRAL, January 31.—Editor Reno Times:—A great fire is raging on Bennehoff Run. It originated from a spark from the smock-stack of the Getty Well. All the wells in the vicinity, twenty-two in number, are on fire; about 30,000 barrels of oil consumed. As the oil runs down the stream the fire follows, and is setting everything within its reach on fire. The oil is still burning as it flows from the wells. In the course of the disaster (eleven miles distant) obtained full particulars, which will be found below:— Yesterday afternoon, as some of the carpenters were employed in erecting tanks at the Getty Well, at about 4 o'clock P. M., it suddenly took fire, and before the lapse of twenty minutes it had spread over the surface of at least an acre of ground, wrapping in the flames no less than nine of the best producing wells on the run. As near as can be estimated, there was accumulated in the course of the day about 7000 barrels of oil. No. 23 on the creek recently gave excellent signs of becoming a large producing well, but the tools recently got lost and delayed its further development. It is probable that the cause of that all the wells on the run were not ignited. The fire proceeded from the Getty Well upwards until it reached No. 29, and consumed the engine house, derricks, etc., on this lease also. At this stage a heroic sally of the Emerald telegraph men, in the face of the onrushing fire, and notwithstanding the imminent danger of the gas arising from them catching fire and wrapping him in certain and terrible death, he continued to pour water down the sides of the tank which was on fire, and before the lapse of twenty minutes there was no oil on No. 29, and owing to this, and as stated by a number of spectators, the efforts of the party alluded to, the flames were kept from proceeding further up the creek, and at least half an hour from the heat into all the shapes of writhing serpents. The bridges both on the track and highway were generally burnt. Burning masses of oil, tress fiery to their tops, mouldering masses of ruined machinery, twisted and bent pipes, and blackened stumps, offices and buildings, all that remain of this morning to tell the sad tale. The following list of property consumed has been compiled hastily, but will probably be found not far from correct:— The Getty, owned by R. P. Getty & Son, Dr. Getty, and E. C. Getty, with all apparatus, and 2000 barrels of oil in the tank, etc. The Harkins Well, tank, etc., including 1200 barrels of oil, owned by S. Ross, K. C. Cotton, Pulver Estate, J. J. Osborn, Hawkins & Mallory, and T. Frothingham. No. 33, owned by Messrs. Goddington, Spence, Wilson, Moore, and others. The tanks were supposed to contain 1500 barrels of oil. No. 34, owned in a great measure by the same parties. Two tanks containing 800. No. 35, owned by Nos. ten & Frothingham, and others. No oil consumed. No. 28, owned fully by the Bennehoff Run Petroleum Company, with 600 barrels of oil. The Clarke Well had previously stopped producing, but its tank contained considerable oil, belonging to other parties, all of which was burned. On the Getty Lease two derricks, engines, rigs, etc., were destroyed. On the Harkins or Frothingham Lease the same number suffered a like later date on 35, one well on 35. On the Northern Light Company's territory two wells were burned, one of which was producing some oil. The other was being tested. Probably not more than three hundred barrels of oil was destroyed in this territory. To be included in the damages are several rigs on basins further down the creek, and the injury sustained by the railway.

The following wells are still safe, viz.:— The West Union or Federal, the Runcy Wells, Nos. 1 and 2, the California Well, Philadelphia Well, Spence Well, and No. 19. The Bennehoff Petroleum Company are said to have been insured, but the extent is not yet ascertained. So far as is informed, none of the working interests were covered by any insurance whatever. The wells which have been burnt were producing as follows:— Harkins Well.....200 bbls. per day Getty Well.....125 bbls. per day Clark Well.....nothing No. 1.....100 bbls. per day No. 2.....200 bbls. per day No. 3.....75 bbls. per day No. 28.....100 bbls. per day Northern Light.....40 bbls. per day

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SPECIAL NOTICES.

NOTICE—HANDEL AND HAYDN SOCIETY.—The Second Concert of the Season will take place on FRIDAY EVENING, February 9, at MUSICAL FUND HALL. Subscribers will take notice that, in consequence of the PUBLIC REHEARSAL taking place on THURSDAY AFTERNOON, the CONCERT will be on FRIDAY NIGHT; therefore, all Subscribers' tickets dated February 8 are to be used on Friday night. All subscribers who wish to avoid the crowded house on Friday night can use their tickets at the Rehearsal. The public will be admitted to the Rehearsal on Thursday afternoon, February 8, doors open at 1 o'clock—no commence at 2 o'clock precisely. All members of the Society will be punctually on the platform before 2 o'clock. Doors will be open on Friday evening at 8 o'clock, and Concert to commence at 7. As the Concert will be over before 10 o'clock, it is requested that the audience will remain seated until the close. Libretto of the Oratorio, containing the Libretto of Mendelssohn and explanatory remarks, will be on sale at the Music Store and at the Hall. Competent sashers will be in attendance to seat the audience. Admission to the Rehearsal.....50 cents " " Concert.....81-90

A limited number of Tickets will be on sale at C. W. A. TRUMPER'S, Seventh and Chestnut streets; LEE & WALKER'S, Chestnut, above Seventh street; and at W. H. BOKER'S, Chestnut street, above Eleventh. By order of the Music Committee. 25 Btp

FREDERICK DOUGLASS, WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON, General CARL SCHUTZ, Mrs. F. E. W. HARRIS, Prof. W. B. DAVIS, and Hon. WILLIAM D. KELLEY, will speak at CONCERT HALL, upon National Temperance, February 10, 11th, and 12th, next, at 8 o'clock A. M., at the RANDOLPH STREET HALL. Tickets for the course, 25c. Single admission, 25 cents. For T. B. Fugitt's, 5th and 13th streets, and at the door.

E. H. THARP, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, LAW AND COLLECTION OFFICE, No. 112, SOUTH STREET. Debts promptly collected in any City or Town of the United States. COME FORTH AND RELIABLE CORRESPONDENTS EVERYWHERE. 112

OFFICE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY, PHILADELPHIA, January 30, 1866. NOTICE OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THIS COMPANY will be held on TUESDAY, the 21st day of February, 1866, at 10 o'clock A. M., at the RANDOLPH STREET HALL. The Annual Election for Directors will be held on MONDAY, the 5th day of March, 1866, at the Office of the Company, No. 238 S. THIRD STREET. EDWARD SMITH, Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE VOLCANIC OIL AND COAL COMPANY, No. 11 Merchants' Exchange, PHILADELPHIA, January 29, 1866. The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of this Company will be held on TUESDAY, the 13th day of February, next, at 4 P. M., 126 & 127 1/2.

RETROUYEY'S TURKISH BANDOULENIAN HAIR TONIC. THE DRESSING AND RESTORER OF THE AGE. TURKISH BANDOULENIAN. RETROUYEY'S TURKISH BANDOULENIAN.

Retrouvey's Turkish Bandooulenian. What can be more acceptable than anything that will beautify that will restore nature's decay by stopping the hair from falling out, restoring its natural color, making it grow in luxuriance and beauty, assist in putting up according to the present style and fashion and keep it in place? This, Retrouvey's Turkish Bandooulenian Hair Tonic will do, and for proof we refer you to any person who has tried it. It is acknowledged to be the beautifier of the age, the only Hair Tonic and Restorer worthy of the name. In Turkey, in France, in England, in America, everywhere where the Bandooulenian is known, it is pronounced the "one plus ultra" of Hair Preparations. Remember, it is free from all metallic poisons that are contained in most Hair Colors and Dressings. It is the extract of many flowers and herbs, beautifully put up, an ornament to the Toilet. For sale by all Druggists and Perfumers. Wholesale, JOHNSTON, HOLLOWAY & COWDEN, DYOTT & Co., Principal Depot for United States and Canada. JAMES PALMER & Co., No. 439 Market street, Philadelphia. 12 1/2 inch 6m

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